

2003

EYES ONLY

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8 April 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/WH Division

SUBJECT: SUCCESS; submarine propaganda plan;

1. The original and copy of this memorandum are submitted for your information and that of LINCOLN, and will require some further thought and recommendations from you concerning at least one aspect of the handling of this matter with the Navy.

2. I had a very good conversation with [ ] yesterday afternoon about this plan and told him that we had a number of purposes in mind in bringing the matter to his attention. In the first place, we wanted to put the Navy on notice of the fact that in the event of the appearance of a story, emanating from KMFLUSH, of certain hostile submarine appearances or activities, this was not to be taken and interpreted by the Navy at face value. Obviously we did not wish to be responsible for alarms and excursions on the part of the Navy. But in addition, we were most anxious to have the cooperation and assistance of the Navy in playing this one "dead pan" and not getting into an investigation of the kind which would tend to rip the cover off our carefully contrived package. I told [ ] that the probable timing of the appearance of this "story" would be between the 19th and 26th of April, and I said that we would probably wish to be in touch with [ ] again concerning certain details of this operation having a Navy angle. (I was referring to the proposed Step I of the plan, although I did not spell this out; and also to the probable desirability of our providing to [ ] the kind of statement or position which we would want him to take with CINCARIB and/or Naval Operations in Washington. Concerning the latter point, I explained to [ ] that we had to figure out a statement which would have the effect of ~~THE~~ quieting Naval anxiety and at the same time avoid exposing the significance of this matter in such a way as to blow the operation.

3. [ ] appeared to be very interested in the plan and expressed his appreciation for our having brought the matter to his attention. He said that he would be glad to work with us in the further refinements of the matter as necessary, and indicated that he would give thought to the proper kind of statement to be made to the operational elements of the Navy.

HAROLD S. WHITING

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